

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS

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> ARTHUR TOWNSHIP CLARE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2008

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OFFICES: BAY CITY, CLARE, GLADWIN AND WEST BRANCH

**RSM** McGladrey Network

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# WEINLANDER FITZHUGH

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

& CONSULTANTS

Independent Auditors' Report

September 3, 2008

Township Board Arthur Township Clare County, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Arthur Township as of and for the year ended March 31, 2008, which collectively comprise the Arthur Township's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Arthur Township's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Arthur Township as of March 31, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

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OFFICES: BAY CITY, CLARE, GLADWIN AND WEST BRANCH



Township Board Arthur Township September 3, 2008

The management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison listed in the table of contents are not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplemental information required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management, regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplemental information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Weinlander Fitzhugh

# Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

Our discussion and analysis of the Arthur Township's (Township) financial performance provides an overview of the Township's financial activities for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008.

#### **Financial Highlights**

The Township's net assets increased by \$26,715 or 11%. Program revenues were \$33,186 or 22% of total revenues, and general revenues were \$116,409 or 78%.

#### **Using this Annual Financial Report**

This annual financial report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand Arthur Township financially as a whole. The *Government-wide Financial Statements* provide information about the activities of the whole Township, presenting both an aggregate view of the Township's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. The fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For Governmental activities, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The fund financial statements look at the Township's operations in more detail than the Government-wide financial statements by providing information about the Township's most significant fund – the General Fund. The remaining statement, the statement of fiduciary net assets, presents financial information about activities for which the Township acts solely as an agent or trustee. The following summarizes the presentation included in this annual financial report.

Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) (Required Supplemental Information)

**Basic Financial Statements** 

- Government-wide Financial Statements
- Fund Financial Statements
- Notes to Financial Statements

Budgetary Information for the General Fund (Required Supplemental Information)

#### Reporting the Township as a Whole

The Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Activities

One of the most important questions asked about the Township's finances is, "Is the Township better or worse off as a result of the year's activities?" The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities report information about the Township as a whole and about its activities in a manner that helps to answer this question. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by private sector companies.

#### Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into consideration regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Township's net assets as a way to measure the Township's financial position. The change in net assets provides the reader a tool to assist in determining whether the Township's financial health is improving or deteriorating. The reader will need to consider other non-financial factors such as property tax base and facility conditions in arriving at their conclusion regarding the overall health of the Township.

#### Reporting the Township's Most Significant Funds

#### Fund Financial Statements

The Township's fund financial statements provide detail information about the most significant fund – not the Township as a whole. Some funds are required to be established by State law. Other funds are established to help it control and manage money for particular purposes or to meet legal responsibilities for using certain taxes, grants, and other sources of revenue. The Township's two types of funds, governmental and fiduciary, use different accounting approaches as further described in the notes to the financial statements.

#### Governmental Funds

Most of the Township's activities are reported in Governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detail short-term view of the Township's general operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources available to spend in the near future to finance the Township's programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds is reconciled in the basic financial statements.

#### Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

#### Fiduciary Funds

The Township is the trustee, or fiduciary, for tax collections. All of the Township's fiduciary activities are reported in the separate Statement of Fiduciary Net Assets. We exclude these activities from the Township's other financial statements because the assets cannot be utilized by the Township to finance its operations.

#### **Township-wide Financial Analysis**

The statement of net assets provides the perspective of the Township as a whole. Exhibit A provides a summary of the Township's net assets as of March 31, 2008 and 2007,

		Governmental Activities				
Exhibit A		2008		2008 2007		2007
Assets						
Current and other assets	\$	194,056	\$	163,063		
Capital assets - net of accumulated						
depreciation		86,150		90,428		
Total assets		280,206		253,491		
Net Assets						
Invested in property and equipment		86,150		90,428		
Restricted		34,791		6,347		
Unrestricted		159,265		156,716		
Total net assets	\$	280,206	\$	253,491		

# Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

This analysis focuses on net assets. The Township's net assets were \$280,206 at March 31, 2008. Capital assets totaling \$86,150 compares the original costs, less depreciation of the Township's capital assets.

The \$159,265 in unrestricted net assets of governmental type activities represents the *accumulated* results of all past years' operations. The operating results of the General Fund will have a significant impact on the change in unrestricted net assets from year to year.

The results of this year's operations for the Township as a whole are reported in the statement of activities. Exhibit B provides a summary for 2008 and 2007 which shows the changes in net assets for the years ended March 31, 2008 and 2007.

#### Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

		Governmental Activities				
Exhibit B		2008		2008		2007
Revenue						
Program revenue:						
Charges for services	\$	33,186	\$	37,563		
General revenue:						
Property taxes		62,177		50,296		
State shared revenues		48,107		47,973		
Other		6,125		6,125		6,403
Total revenue		149,595		142,235		
Function/Program Expenses						
General government		62,093		64,943		
Public safety		13,947		13,301		
Public works		32,951		43,218		
Highways and streets		9,914		21,913		
Planning, zoning and inspector		3,975		3,428		
Total expenses		122,880		146,803		
Change in Net Assets	\$	26,715	\$	(4,568)		

As reported in the statement of activities, the cost of all of our *Governmental type* activities this year was \$122,880. Certain activities were partially funded from those who benefited from the programs or by other Townships and organizations that subsidized certain programs with grants and categoricals. We paid for the remaining "public benefit" portion of our governmental activities with \$62,177 in taxes, \$48,107 in state revenue sharing and with our other revenues, such as interest and miscellaneous revenues.

The Township experienced an increase in net assets of \$26,715. Key reasons for the change in net assets was fewer expenditures for road projects and sanitation removal costs. The change in net assets differs from the change in fund balance and a reconciliation appears in the financial statements.

# Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

#### **The Township's Funds**

The Township uses funds to help it control and manage money for particular purposes. Looking at funds helps the reader consider whether the Township is being accountable for the resources taxpayers and others provide to it and may provide more insight into the Township's overall financial health.

The Township's governmental fund reported a fund balance of \$194,056 which is above last year's total of \$163,063. The schedule below indicates the fund balance and the total change in fund balances as of March 31, 2008 and 2007.

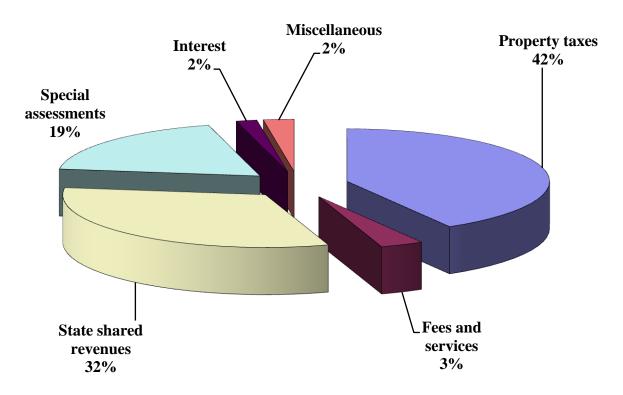
	Fund	d Balance	Fun	d Balance		
	Marc	h 31, 2008	Marc	ch 31, 2007	I1	ncrease
General	\$	194,056	\$	163,063	\$	30,993

• Our General Fund increased \$30,993. The increase is due to decreased spending on road projects, sanitation removal cost and cemetery improvements. The increase was 19% over the prior year.

# Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

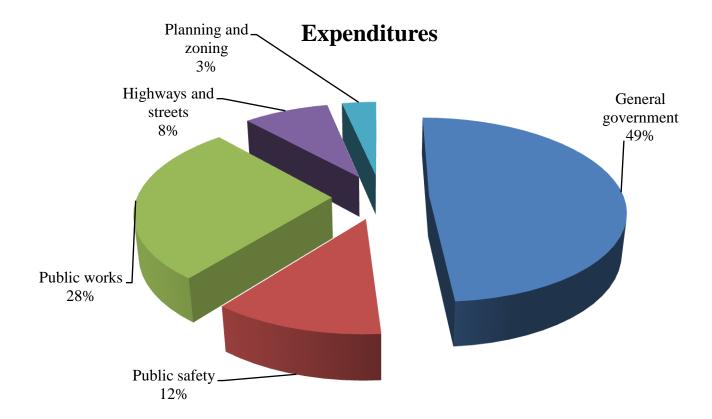
As the graph below illustrates, the largest portion of the Township's revenue comes from property taxes.

#### **Sources of Revenues**



#### Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

The graph below illustrates, 28% of the Townships' resources are spent on public works for rubbish removal services. Another 12% is spent on public safety for fire protection services, while 49% is spent for general government expenses such as administrative costs and hall and ground, including utilities. The remaining 11% is spent on other services provided to the residents of the Township as listed below.



#### Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

The chart below compares current year expenditures with prior year.

	2008	2007
Expenditures by Function		
General government	\$ 57,815	\$ 72,372
Public safety	13,947	13,301
Public works	32,951	43,218
Highways and streets	9,914	21,913
Planning and zoning	3,975	3,428
Total	\$118,602	\$154,232

Expenditures decreased by \$35,630 or 23% over the prior year mostly due to improvements to the cemetery and roads in the prior year. The Township also had fewer expenditures for sanitation removal services in the current year due to all services being subcontracted.

#### **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

Over the course of the year, the Township revises its budget to reflect changes in revenues and expenditures. State law requires that the budget be amended to ensure that expenditures do not exceed appropriations. A schedule showing the Township's original and final budget amounts compared with amounts actually paid and received is provided in required supplemental information of these financial statements. There were no changes to the General Fund original budget. The differences between the budget and the final actual amounts are as follows:

- The township currently does not adopt a revenue budget.
- Actual expenditures were under the budgeted expenditures by \$115,625. There was
  less expended in general government due to no cemetery improvement projects,
  annual audit and no improvements to the hall. Also, less was expended for
  improvements to roads and bridges and legal and other expenses associated with
  sanitation removal services.

#### Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

#### **Capital Assets**

At March 31, 2008, the Township had \$86,150 invested in a broad range of capital assets, including land, buildings, furniture and equipment. This amount represents a net decrease (including additions and disposals) of \$4,278, or 4%, over last year.

	2008		2007
Land	\$	3,000	\$ 3,000
Buildings and improvements		93,399	93,399
Machinery and equipment		14,100	14,100
Total capital assets		110,499	110,499
Less accumulated depreciation		24,349	 20,071
Net capital assets	\$	86,150	\$ 90,428

There were no capital assets purchased or donated during the year ended March 31, 2008.

We do not anticipate any major capital addition in the current year. We present more detailed information about our capital assets in the notes to the financial statements.

#### **Factors Expected to Have an Effect on Future Operations**

We expect to see a decline in state shared revenue next year as the State of Michigan continues to face challenges in balancing its budget. We will need to adjust Township expenditures in response to any revenue shortfall.

#### **Requests For Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Township's finances for all those with an interest in the Arthur Township. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to:

Arthur Township 2500 South Hoover Road Gladwin, MI 48624

## ARTHUR TOWNSHIP Statement of Net Assets March 31, 2008

	Governmenta Activities	
Assets Cash and cash equivalents Internal balances	\$ 159,989 25,486	
Due from other governmental units Capital assets net of accumulated depreciation of \$24,349.	8,581 86,150	
Total Assets	280,206	
Net Assets Invested in property and equipment Restricted Unrestricted	86,150 34,791 159,265	
Total Net Assets	\$ 280,206	

# ARTHUR TOWNSHIP Statement of Activities For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

			Pı	ogram	Go	vernmental
	_		R	levenue	A	Activities
	Charges for		Charges for		(Expenses) evenue and thanges in	
Functions/Programs	F	Expenses	S	ervices		et Assets
Primary Government -		жрензез		CIVICOS		Ct / Issets
Governmental activities:						
Operating:						
General government	\$	62,093	\$	2,806	\$	(59,287)
Public safety		13,947		2,000		(11,947)
Public works		32,951		28,055		(4,896)
Highways and streets		9,914		0		(9,914)
Planning and zoning		3,975		325		(3,650)
Total governmental activities	\$	122,880	\$	33,186		(89,694)
	Genera	l Revenues	:			
	Prop	perty taxes				62,177
	State	e shared rev	enues			48,107
	Inte	rest				2,476
	Mise	cellaneous				3,649
	Tota	al general re	venue	es		116,409
	Cha	nge in net a	ssets			26,715
	Net	assets - beg	inning	g of year		253,491
	Net	assets - end	of ye	ar	\$	280,206

## Governmental Fund Balance Sheet March 31, 2008

#### <u>ASSETS</u>

	General
	Fund
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 159,989
Internal balances	25,486
Due from other governmental units	8,581
Total Assets	\$ 194,056
FUND BALANCE	
Fund Balance	
Reserved for rubbish removal	\$ (5,111)
Reserved for road repair and maintenance	39,902
Unreserved and undesignated	159,265
Total Fund Balance	\$ 194,056

# Reconciliation of Balance Sheet of Governmental Fund to the Statement of Net Assets <u>March 31, 2008</u>

Total fund balance - governmental fund	\$ 194,056
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the	
statement of net assets are different because:	
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial	
resources and are not reported in the funds	
Cost of the capital assets	110,499
Accumulated depreciation	(24,349)
Total net assets - governmental activities	\$ 280,206

#### Governmental Fund

# Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

## For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

	General
	Fund
Revenues	
State shared revenues	\$ 48,107
Special assessments	28,055
Property taxes	62,177
Fees and services	5,131
Interest	2,476
Miscellaneous	3,649_
Total revenues	149,595
Expenditures	
Current	
General government	57,815
Public safety	13,947
Public works	32,951
Highways and streets	9,914
Planning and zoning	3,975
Total expenditures	118,602
Excess of revenues over expenditures	30,993
Fund balance - beginning of year	163,063
Fund balance - end of year	\$ 194,056

# Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance of Governmental Fund to the Statement of Activities For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

Net change in fund balance - total governmental fund	\$ 30,993
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement	
of activities are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures;	
in the statement of activities, these costs are allocated	
over their estimated useful lives as depreciation	
Depreciation expense	 (4,278)
Change in net assets of governmental activities	\$ 26,715

## Statement of Fiduciary Net Assets March 31, 2008

		Current Tax Fund	
Assets Cash	\$	25,590	
<u>Liabilities</u> Due to other governmental units Due to other funds	\$	104 25,486	
Total liabilities	_ \$	25,590	

#### Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

#### NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of Arthur Township (Township) conform to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units. The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies used by Arthur Township:

#### **Reporting Entity**

Arthur Township is governed by an elected five member council (Board). The accompanying financial statements present the government.

#### **Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements**

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net assets and the statement of changes in net assets) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government. The effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. Program revenues include: (1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function and (2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

#### Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as is the fiduciary fund financial statements. Revenue is recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenue in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

#### Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

#### NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recognized as soon as it is both measurable and available. Revenue is considered to be available if it is collected within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures and claims and judgments are recorded only when payment is due.

Property taxes, state-shared revenue and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenue of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be available only when cash is received by the government.

The Township reports the following major governmental fund:

The General Fund is the Township's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the Township, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

#### Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity

<u>Deposits and Investments</u> – Cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with a maturity of three months or less when acquired. Investments are stated at fair value.

<u>Receivables and Payables</u> – In general, outstanding balances between funds are reported as "due to/from other funds."

#### Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

#### NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

All trade and property tax receivables are shown as net of allowance for uncollectible amounts. Property taxes are levied on each December 1<sup>st</sup> on the taxable valuation of property as of the preceding December 31<sup>st</sup>. Taxes are considered delinquent on March 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year, at which time penalties and interest are assessed.

<u>Capital Assets</u> – Capital assets, which include land, buildings and machinery and equipment are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the Township as assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$1,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of 5 years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Costs of normal repair and maintenance that do not add value or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Building, vehicles, and equipment are being depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Buildings	40 Years
Building improvements	10 to 20 Years
Vehicles	10 to 15 Years
Office equipment	5 to 15 Years

<u>Fund Equity</u> – In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

#### Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

#### NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

<u>Use of Estimates</u> – The process of preparing the basic financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of estimates and assumptions regarding certain types of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses. Such estimates primarily relate to unsettled transactions and events as of the date of the financial statements. Accordingly, upon settlement, actual results may differ from estimated amounts.

#### NOTE 2 – BUDGETS

The State of Michigan adopted a Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act (Act) applicable to all local governmental entities in the state. The law requires appropriation acts to be adopted for General and Special Revenue Funds of governments prior to the expenditure of monies in a fiscal year.

Arthur Township follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements.

- 1. The Township's supervisor submits to the Board a proposed budget prior to April 1 of each year. The budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
- 2. A public hearing is conducted to obtain taxpayer comments.
- 3. Budgeted amounts are as originally adopted, or as amended by the Board throughout the year. Individual amendments were not material in relation to the original appropriations. Budgets are adopted to the functional level.
- 4. Appropriations lapse at year-end. These appropriations are re-established at the beginning of the following year.

A comparison of actual results of operations to the budgeted amounts (at the level of control adopted by the Board) for the General Fund is presented as Required Supplemental Information.

#### Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

#### **NOTE 3 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

Michigan Compiled Laws, Section 129.91, authorizes the local governmental unit to make deposits and invest in the accounts of federally insured banks, credit unions, and savings and loan associations which have an office in Michigan. The local unit is allowed to invest in bonds, securities and other direct obligations of the United States or any agency or instrumentality of the United States; United States government or federal agency obligations; repurchase agreements; bankers' acceptance of United States banks; commercial paper rates within the two highest classifications which mature not more than 270 days after the date of purchase; obligations of the State of Michigan or its political subdivisions which are rated as investment grade; and mutual funds composed of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan. The Township's deposits are in accordance with statutory authority.

At year-end, the Township's deposits were reported in the basic financial statements in the following categories:

	A	ctivities	Fund		Total	
Cash and cash equivalent	\$	159,989	\$	25,590	\$	185,579

#### **Custodial Credit Risk- Deposits**

In the case of deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Township's deposits may not be returned to it. As of March 31, 2008, none of the Township's bank balance of \$186,540 was exposed to custodial credit risk.

The Township's investment policy does not identify interest rate risk, foreign currency risk or concentration credit risk.

The Township has no investments as of March 31, 2008

### Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

#### **NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital asset activity of the Township for the current year was as follows:

	Balance April 1, 2007	Additions	Disposals and Adjustments	Balance March 31, 2008
<b>Governmental Activities</b>				
Capital assets not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	93,399	0	0	93,399
Machinery and equipment	14,100	0	0	14,100
Subtotal	107,499	0	0	107,499
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings and improvements	10,451	3,158	0	13,609
Machinery and equipment	9,620	1,120	0	10,740
Subtotal	20,071	4,278	0	24,349
NT 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	97.420	(4.270)		92.150
Net capital assets being depreciated	87,428	(4,278)	0	83,150
Governmental Activities, Total				
Capital Assets - net of depreciation	\$ 90,428	\$ (4,278)	\$ 0	\$ 86,150

Depreciation expense was charged to programs of the Township as follows:

Governmental Activities:
General government \$ 4,278

#### Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

#### NOTE 5 – INTERFUND RECEIVABLES, PAYABLES AND TRANSFERS

A summary of inter-fund receivable and payable balances at March 31, 2008 is as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	Receivables	<u>Payables</u>
General Tax Fund	\$ 25,486	\$ 0 25,486
	\$ 25,486	\$ 25,486

Interfund receivables and payables reflect the collection of property tax revenue not formally moved to the General Fund.

There were no inter-fund transfers during the fiscal year.

#### **NOTE 7 – RISK MANAGEMENT**

Arthur Township is exposed to various risks of loss related to property loss, torts, errors and omissions and employee injuries (workers' compensation). Arthur Township participates in the Michigan Municipal League risk pool for claims relating to relating to workers' compensation, general liability, and property/casualty claims. Settled claims relating to the commercial insurance have not exceeded the amount of insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

The Michigan Municipal League risk pool program operates as a common risksharing management program for local units of government in Michigan; member premiums are used to purchase commercial excess insurance coverage and to pay member claims in excess of deductible amounts.

The Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority risk pool program operates as a claims servicing pool for amounts up to member retention limits, and operates as a common risk-sharing management program for losses in excess of member retention amounts. Although premiums are paid annually to the Authority, that the Authority uses to pay claims up to the retention limits, the ultimate liability for those claims remains with Arthur Township.

The Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority's State Pool program operates as a common risk-sharing management program for local units of government in Michigan. Member premiums are used to purchase excess insurance coverage and to

#### Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

#### <u>NOTE 7 – RISK MANAGEMENT</u> (CONTINUED)

pay member claims in excess of deductible amounts. A portion of the excess insurance coverage is underwritten by the Authority itself.

The Michigan Townships Participating Plan operates as an insurance purchasing pool for local units of government in Michigan. The Plan purchases commercial insurance on behalf of its members at a lower cost than would be available on an individual basis.

# Required Supplemental Information Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund For the Year Ended March 31, 2008

				Variance
	Original	Final Amended		Favorable
	Budget	Budget	Actual	(Unfavorable)
Revenues				
State shared revenues	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 48,107	\$ 48,107
Special assessments	0	0	28,055	28,055
Property taxes	0	0	62,177	62,177
Fees and services	0	0	5,131	5,131
Interest	0	0	2,476	2,476
Miscellaneous	0	0	3,649	3,649
Total revenues	0	0	149,595	149,595
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Current				
General government	108,098	108,098	57,815	50,283
Public safety	16,000	16,000	13,947	2,053
Public works	44,125	44,125	32,951	11,174
Highways and streets	60,000	60,000	9,914	50,086
Planning and zoning	6,004	6,004	3,975	2,029
Total expenses	234,227	234,227	118,602	115,625
Excess (deficiency) of				
revenues over expenditures	(234,227)	(234,227)	30,993	265,220
Fund balance-beginning of year	163,063	163,063	163,063	0
Fund balance-end of year	\$ (71,164)	\$ (71,164)	\$ 194,056	\$ 265,220

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



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## WEINLANDER FITZHUGH

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS

September 3, 2008

Township Board Arthur Township Clare County, Michigan

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Arthur Township (Township) as of and for the year ended March 31, 2008, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. We considered Arthur Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A deficiency in design exists when a control necessary to meet the control objective is missing, or when an existing control is not properly designed so that even if the control operates as designed, the control objective is not always met. A deficiency in operation exists when a properly designed control does not operate as designed or when the person performing the control does not possess the necessary authority or qualifications to perform the control effectively.

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Township Board Arthur Township September 3, 2008 Page 2

A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected. We consider the following significant deficiencies to be material weaknesses:

#### **Revenue Budget**

Public Act 21, of 1968, as amended, through Public Act 493 of 2000 mandates that general appropriations act (budget) adopted by the local government unit must include estimated revenues by source in each fund. The Act also requires the Township to indicate state the total mills to be levied and the purpose for each millage levied (truth in budgeting act).

It was noted that the Township only included estimated expenditures within the Township budget.

Public Act 21, of 1968, as amended, through Public Act 493 of 2000 mandates that general appropriations act (budget) adopted by the local government unit must be adopted before the commencement of the budget year.

It was noted that the Township adopted the budget for the year ending March 31, 2008 on April 2, 2007.

We recommend that the Township review the Uniform Budget Manual issued by the Michigan Department of Treasury and amend the current budget practices to reflect these requirements.

#### **Financial Reporting**

As part of our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting, we as auditors are not allowed to be considered to be part of Arthur Township's internal controls. In taking this required position, we must consider whether the Township has the ability, on its own, to monitor and report financial activity in accordance with our professional standards without auditor involvement.



Township Board Arthur Township September 3, 2008 Page 4

The Township uses accounting software as a management tool to monitor the financial status of the Township, to facilitate the preparation and amendment of budgets and to compare budgeted amounts to actual results. In addition, the Township demonstrates the ability to report fund level activities, monitor fiduciary fund activities (including tax collections and disbursements) and report on certain fund level note disclosures. Due to the complexity of the required government wide financial statements and related note disclosures in accordance with GASB 34, the Township does not maintain personnel who can report in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles without auditor involvement.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Township Board, management and others within the Township and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Weinlander Fitzhugh



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# WEINLANDER FITZHUGH

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS

September 3, 2008

Township Board Arthur Township Clare County, Michigan

In connection with our audit of the financial statements of Arthur Township (Township) as of and for the year ended March 31, 2008, we identified deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting (control deficiencies).

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect financial statement misstatements on a timely basis. A deficiency in design exists when a control necessary to meet the control objective is missing, or when an existing control is not properly designed so that even if the control operates as designed, the control objective is not always met. A deficiency in operation exists when a properly designed control does not operate as designed or when the person performing the control does not possess the necessary authority or qualifications to perform the control effectively.

A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or a combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affect the entity's ability to authorize, initiate, record, process or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or a combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected.

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Township Board Arthur Township September 3, 2008 Page 2

We have separately communicated, to you and the Township Board, identified deficiencies that we determined to be a material weaknesses. Certain control deficiencies that have been previously communicated to you, in writing, by us or by others within your organization are not repeated herein.

Following are descriptions of other identified control deficiencies that we determined did not constitute significant deficiencies or material weaknesses:

#### **Segregation of Duties**

This means that there are different individuals performing different duties within a specific accounting function. Having multiple individuals performing duties in the same accounting function acts as a check and balance.

As is common in many small local government units, there is often only a few people, sometimes only one person, performing the accounting and financial functions. And it is also common to have these individuals concentrate their efforts in one area.

The Township has a lack of complete separation of duties with respect to cash collections. The collection of cash, writing of receipts and depositing of collections is centralized around one individual.

The Township has implemented compensating controls for property tax revenue through the county settlement process and state revenue sharing through the Michigan Department of Treasury, the remaining revenues collected generally have insufficient checks and balances in place.

The preceding comments are not intended to reflect on the performance or capability of any employee.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Township Board, management and others within the Township and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.





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# WEINLANDER FITZHUGH

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS

September 3, 2008

Township Board Arthur Township Clare County, Michigan

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Arthur Township for the year ended March 31, 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated September 3, 2008. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

#### Our Responsibility under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

As stated in our engagement letter dated April 16, 2008, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U. S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

#### Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to you in our correspondence about planning matters on April 16, 2008.

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Township Board Arthur Township September 3, 2008 Page 2

#### Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by Arthur Township are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during they year ended March 31, 2008 We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. There are no significant transactions that have been recognized in the financial statements in a different period than when the transaction occurred.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events.

Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting the financial statement was depreciation.

Management's estimate of the estimated useful life is based on past experience and management's knowledge. We evaluate the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimated useful life in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.



Township Board Arthur Township September 3, 2008 Page 3

#### Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management.

Management has corrected all such misstatements

#### Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

#### Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated September 3, 2008.

#### Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.



Township Board Arthur Township September 3, 2008 Page 4

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Organization's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Township Board, management and others within the Township and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Weinlander Fitzhugh